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A SEAT OF MANY ILLS.

Eye Strain is Responsible For a Num-
ber of Ailments.

When the specialist to whom they had taken their sixteen-year-old daughter on account of what seemed to be a case of incipient melancholia diagnosed the case as one of eye strain and ordered prompt treatment from an oculist, the parents of a young New York girl were astonished. Eye strain seemed as remote from melancholia as would corns on the feet. Their astonishment was proportionately increased when after a few treatments and acquiring glasses the child showed noticeable improvement.

Latter day medical science traces to eye strain many ills which seem so remote from the eyes that formerly physicians never thought of establishing a connection between them. Sick headache, nervousness, melancholia, insomnia, are but a few which have of late been laid to the door of weak eyes; the proper treatment having been neglected.

Nervous diseases of the nature of St. Vitus' dance are now thought to originate frequently in eye trouble. The weak eyes blink incessantly, and this leads to a general contortion of the facial muscles, which grows on the subject through constant repetition.—Exchange.

The Names of Tea.

We talk glibly about Pekoe, Bohea, etc., but few people have any idea of what these names signify. "Pekoe" is the dialect of Canton means "white hair," for the tea which bears this name is made from the youngest leaves, so young that the white down is still on them. "Soochong" in the same dialect is a quite unpoetic name, it merely signifies "small kind." "Flourishing spring" is the meaning of "Hyson." "Kongou" signifies "labor." Much trouble and toil are expended in its preparation at Amoy, and these are commemorated in its name. "Bohea" is called after a range of hills.—Portland (Ore.) Journal.

To Clean Bronzes.

It is not a good plan to clean bronzes, as the polish is very easily spoiled, but if necessary nothing is better than cleaning them with water and ammonia, using a stiff brush like a nailbrush. Dry carefully after rinsing thoroughly. They should be carefully dusted every day with a soft cloth and a feather brush, and a little sweet oil may be rubbed on occasionally. To remove stains from bronze make the article very hot by dipping it in boiling water. Then rub it with a piece of flannel dipped in suds made from yellow soap, rubbing clean with soft linen cloths.

Switzerland a Modern Babel.

Switzerland, with its mixture of races and tongues, is a sort of modern Babel, a fact which causes much trouble in particular to the military authorities. At Wallenstadt the other day at the recruiting station there was a guard composed of five men. The chief was a lieutenant who spoke German only, the second a sergeant who spoke Italian only, the third a corporal who could speak French and Spanish, the fourth a private who could speak French and German, and the fifth a private who could speak French and Italian. When the lieutenant had to transmit an order to the sergeant he had to get the last named man to interpret for him. When he wanted to communicate with the corporal he had to requisition the fourth man, and so on, great delay and confusion being thus occasioned.—London News.

Shelley as a Boy.

Here is a glimpse of Shelley offered by Andrew Lang: "It seems almost incredible, but it is true, that I once knew a man who was at Eton with Shelley, who left in 1810. This was Mr. Hammond, a senior fellow of Merton college when I was an inquiring junior. About 1870 he told me all that I could extract from him about the poet. Shelley was not a clever boy; he never was sent up for good, which means, I conceive, that he never did a remarkable exercise in Latin verse. Mr. Hammond added that Shelley had a habit when he was walking alone of suddenly breaking into a sprint at a hundred yards pace. That was all."

She Didn't Do It.

The family jar waxed fiercer. "You talk about my being to blame for our marrying?" shrilly exclaimed Mrs. Vick-Senn. "John Henry, did I hunt you out and make love to you?" "No," he snorted. "But you could have given me the glassy eye and sent me about my business, and you didn't do it, madam—you didn't do it!"—Chicago Tribune.

The Gentleman.

"Supposing I decide to let you have the money, how do I know that I shall get it back at the time you mention?" asked Brown. "I promise it, my boy, on the word of a gentleman," replied Moore. "Ah! In that case I may think better of it. Come around this evening and bring him with you."

None Left.

"A college education," declared the enthusiastic mother, "brings out all that is good in a boy." "Yes," retorted William's father, "and in Bill's case I wish a little of it could have stayed in."—Cleveland Press.

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NEW YEAR'S IN THE ORIENT

The Greetings and the Presents in China and Japan.

The most wonderful ceremonies connected with the new year occur in China and Japan. A Chinese city presents a busy and attractive spectacle on New Year's day. The streets are thronged with people dressed in gala attire. The mandarins are known by the red, blue, white and gilt balls on their caps. Gentlemen of rank and wealth are carried in palanquins. When friends meet they greet each other with "Kung-hi! Kung-hi!" which means, "I respectfully wish you joy." But instead of shaking hands in the American fashion each grasps his own hands, lifts them as high as his chin and with a sweeping motion throws them down as low as possible, bending the body at the same time. This is the mode of salutation among the Chinese. At the dawn of New Year's day the visits of congratulation begin, and New Year's gifts are sent to particular friends, always accompanied by a visiting ticket of red paper, on which are written the name of the donor and a list of the presents sent. These consist usually of silks, fine tea, sweetmeats, ornaments of personal wear, toys and souvenirs of various kinds. In Japan the custom is to send letters on rice paper to those in distant places, conveying the formal expression of the New Year's greetings. Presents of cooked rice, roasted peas, oranges and figs are offered to every one.—Leslie's Weekly.

ABUSE OF INDOORS.

We Rely Too Much on the Protection of Our Houses.

Houses were made for shelter, not for confinement; for freedom, not restraint. They were intended to enlarge our sphere of activities, not to diminish them.

They foster the family and make progress possible, but we should not abuse their protection. We have crawled away into their still and comfortable recesses, slept in their dry, clean chambers, toasted ourselves over their sheltered fires, read by their flickering lights and eaten from their bountiful boards so long that we are grown pale, timid, peevish and thankless withal.

We have kept ourselves away from the wind and the sun and the lashing rain, from the feel of the earth underfoot and the sense of the leaves and stars overhead until we no longer know the keen and simple joys of being alive. We have set up barriers against the inclemency of nature and covered before her severe austerity until now we have forgotten how indispensable is all her kindly nurture, how tonic her rugged ways, how full of solace her assuaging calm.

Houses were only made to live in when it is too cold or too hot or too wet to live out of doors. Any other time out of doors is best. To sleep out of doors for a month is better than a trip to Europe.—Bliss Carman in Craftsman.

Facts About Building Stone.

Almost everybody knows the rule of the masons that stone used in building should be so placed that it will lie as it lay in its natural bed when quarried. But Francis W. Hoyt in the Engineering News says that this familiar rule is not always to be depended upon and needs in many cases to be supplemented with other precautions. There are three planes of fracture known to quarrymen. The rift is the direction in which the stone splits most easily, the grain that which is next easiest, the head that which offers the greatest resistance. In a paving block the two sides represent the rift fracture, the top and bottom the grain and the ends the head. But in a quarry the natural bed is sometimes considerably inclined to the plane of the rift; hence the imperfection of the ordinary rule for placing the stone in building.

Ysleta.

St. Augustine, Fla., founded by the Spaniards in 1564, is generally said to be the oldest European settlement within the present limits of the United States, but some twenty or thirty years earlier Coronado, the Spanish conqueror and explorer, leading an expedition from the City of Mexico northward, had founded some sort of a Spanish colony at the ancient Indian village of Ysleta, in El Paso county, Tex. In the southwest it is therefore claimed that Ysleta is the oldest European settlement in the United States.—St. Louis Republic.

Good Answer.

A theological student supposed to be deficient in judgment was asked by a professor in the course of a class examination:

"Pray, Mr. E., how would you discover a fool?"

"By the questions he would ask," was the rather stunning reply.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Don't Grow Stale!

Many a man bewails his lack of success in life after he has permitted himself to get into a rut. While dreaming of success he has been as blind as a bat and slower than two snails. He blocked his own way.—Manchester Union.

Dig From a Friend.

"How old is your husband, dear?" "Forty. There's ten years' difference between us." "You surprise me! I should never have thought you fifty years old."—Figaro.

It is seldom that punishment, though lame of foot, has failed to overtake a villain.—Horace.

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